

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 9 and 12, 13, and 15 – 17 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1 and 15 - 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Toshio et al. (Toshio, Japanese Patent Document No. 09-271909, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted January 13, 2003). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended and rewritten to include the subject matter of claim 14, which is indicated as being allowable. More specifically, Claim 1 now calls for an average width of the groove to be 0.5 – 90  $\mu\text{m}$  for preventing the molten alloy from entering the groove, and for the groove to be formed spirally with respect to the rotation axis of the cooling roll. Since this subject matter is indicated as being allowable, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 15-17 are not anticipated by Toshio. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102/103**

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Toshio et al. (Toshio, Japanese Patent Document No. 09-271909, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted January 13, 2003). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 is ultimately dependent on claim 1, addressed above. Claim 8 is neither anticipated nor obvious for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Since claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 14, claim 1 and each corresponding dependent should be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshio et al. (Toshio, Japanese Patent Document No. 09-271909, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted January 13, 2003). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Again, claim 1 has been amended and rewritten to include the subject matter of claim 14, which is indicated as being allowable. Claim 1 now calls for an average width of the groove to be 0.5 – 90  $\mu\text{m}$  for preventing the molten alloy from entering the groove, and for the groove to be formed spirally with respect to the rotation axis of the cooling roll. Since this subject matter is indicated as being allowable, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 are not obvious in view of Toshio.

Claims 3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshio et al. as applied to claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 above, and further in view of Fukuno et al (USPN 5,665,177). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 5-7 are ultimately dependent on claim 1. Claims 3 and 5-7, therefore, are not obvious for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Since claim 1 includes the

allowable subject matter of claim 14, claim 1 and each corresponding dependent should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toshio in view of Fukuno as applied to claims 3, 5 and 7 above, and further in view of Sukeyoshi et al. (Sukeyoshi, Japanese Patent Document No. 10-317110). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim is dependent on claim 1. Claim 4, therefore, is not obvious for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1. That is, as stated above, claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Since claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 14, claim 1 and each corresponding dependent should be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the allowance of claims 9 and 14. As stated above, the allowable subject matter of claim 14 has been amended into independent claim 1. Claim 14, therefore, has been cancelled. Notwithstanding, independent claim 1 and each corresponding dependent claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance.

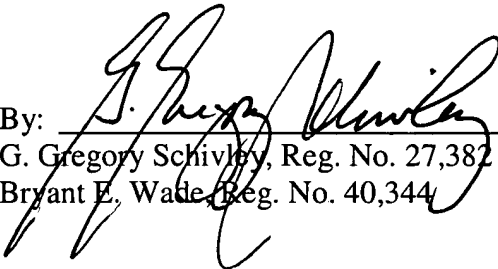
#### **CONCLUSION**

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this

amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:   
G. Gregory Schivley, Reg. No. 27,382  
Bryant E. Wade, Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600

GGs/BEW/JAH